THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) (a) to (c) The Tsunami disaster has caused extensive damage to life and property. 10273 lives were lost and 5823 people were reported to be missing most of whom are feared dead. The State Governments and UT Administrations had immediately launched search and rescue operations with the help of the Armed Forces, Para Military Forces, local community and Non Governmental Organizations. The dead bodies were retrieved/recovered and were cremated/buried as per the due process including identification wherever feasible. The whole process took a few days, which generally happens with disasters of such magnitude.

Criteria adopted to confer Bharat Ratna

211. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria adopted by Government of India to confer Bharat Ratna on any person;

(b) whether there is any committee which scrutinize the names of the people for Bharat Ratna;

(c) the terms of reference given to the committee; and

(d) the details of members of the committee which scrutinises the name for this honour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT) (a) Bharat Ratna is awarded for exceptional service towards the advancement of art, literature and science and in recognition of public service of the highest order.

(b) to (d) Recommendations or award of Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President. He is free to consult anyone he chooses.

Visit of Tsunami hit areas

212. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited all the Tsunami' affected regions and seen for himself the quality of relief exercises and status of the socio-economic rehabilitation of the survivors;

(b)if so, the details of information gathered in respective places;

(c)the total number, with age-wise break-up of, lives perished in each place;

(d)the number of people whose sources of livelihood suffered due to destruction/damage by the calamity;

(e)the steps, if any taken for restoration of sources of livelihood to them; and

(f) the details of estimated investments to be made for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) (a) and (b) The Home Minister had visited the mainland States/UT immediately after the Tsunami disaster and later the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and interacted with the affected communities to have a first hand information about the damage and the sufferings. The Home Minister reviewed the relief, response and rehabilitation measures and advised the authorities to undertake these measures without any discrimination and with a human face. The visit had helped in formulating the special package named as "Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami affected areas" approved by the Government of India.

(c) and (d) 10273 lives were lost in the Tsunami disaster besides 823 persons were reported to be missing most of whom are feared dead. The age-wise details are not readily available. About 27.92 lakh people were affected due to Tsunami disaster in one way or the other.

(e) and (f) Although it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief to the people affected by natural disasters, the Government of India have announced a special package of Rs. 3644.05 crore named as "Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami affected areas". The package provides assistance for immediate relief and response, short term rehabilitation, temporary (inter-mediate) housing, immediate repair/restoration of infrastructure and revival of fishery and agriculture sector.

A Core Group under the Planning Commission has been constituted to plan and make provisions for long term rehabilitation, infrastructure reconstruction including providing multihazard proof permanent houses to

those who have lost their houses. The total damage is estimated to be over Rs. 10,000/-crore.

Disaster Preparedness and Management Plan

213. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's decision to draw up a post 2001 Bhuj Earth-Quake Preparedness and Management Plan have been formulated and implemented;

(b) if so, the salient features of this plan;

(e) if not, by when this will be read for guidance to meet such contingencies to minimise the disastrous effects to avoid loss of human lives and property; and

(d) if not, by when this will be ready for guidance to meet such contingencies to minimise the disastrous effects to avoid loss of human lives and property; and

(d) whether any special step being taken to expedite drawing up this Disaster Preparedness and Management Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) (a) to (d) Based on the lessons learnt from Orissa Cyclone (October, 1999) and Bhuj Earthquake (January, 2001) the approach to disaster management has been changed from reactive to pro-active with the focus on prevention, mitigation and preparedness to reduce our vulnerabilities to hazards. In this context a Strategic Roadmap has been prepared and shared with the States/UT Administrations to enable them to formulate their respective state roadmaps as a broad guideline. The sectors identified for this purpose are institutional mechanisms, disaster mitigation/ prevention, legal/policy frame work, preparedness and response, establishment of emergency operation centers and rescue inventory including incident command system, emergency support function plants, communication linkages, regional response centers, formulation of disaster management plans and community based mitigation, preparedness and response plans, early warning systems, human resource development & capability building and research and knowledge management. Keeping all